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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,966	11/18/2003	Cyril Cabral JR.	YOR920030287US1 (20140-00)	4605
30678	7590	06/15/2005	EXAMINER	
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP SUITE 800 1990 M STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3425			VU, HUNG K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2811	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/714,966	Applicant(s) CABRAL ET AL. 	
	Examiner Hung Vu	Art Unit 2811	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7, 11-31, 42, 43 and 46-51 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-10 and 32-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 36, 40, 41, 44 and 45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Invention of Figure 4A, claims 1-6, 8-10, 32-41 and 44-45, in the reply filed on 03/29/05 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 7, 11-31, 42, 43, and 46-51 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 03/29/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 32-34 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lopatin et al. (PN 6,528,409, of record).

Lopatin et al. discloses, as shown in Figures 13-19, 24 and 35, a composite material comprising:

a layer containing copper (230,308);

a CoWP film (234,318) on the copper layer, wherein the CoWP film contains from 11 atom percent to 25 atom percent phosphorus and has a thickness from 5 nm to 200 nm [Col. 10, lines 45-59].

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The term “electrodeposited” is method recitation in a device claimed. Note that only the final product is relevant, not the method of making. A product by process claim is directed to the product per se, no matter how actually made. See also MPEP 2113. Moreover, an old or obvious product produced by a new method is not a patentable product, whether claimed in “product by process” claims or not.

With regard to claims 2 and 33, Lopatin et al. discloses the CoWP film contains from 3 atom percent to 10 atom percent tungsten.

With regard to claims 3 and 34, Lopatin et al. discloses the CoWP film consists essentially of $\text{Co}_x\text{W}_y\text{P}_z$, wherein $0.68 < x < 0.88$; $0.01 < y < 0.10$; and $z = (1 - (x + y))$.

With regard to claim 5, Lopatin et al. discloses the copper layer is disposed between the CoWP film and a metal layer (240).

With regard to claim 6, Lopatin et al. discloses the copper layer and the metal layer is disposed within a trench or via of a dielectric material.

With regard to claims 8, 9 and 38, Lopatin et al. discloses the CoWP film has a thickness from 10 nm to 50 nm (with the range of 5 nm to 50 nm or 10 nm to 30 nm).

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With regard to claim 32, Lopatin et al. discloses, as shown in Figures 13-19, 24 and 35, an interconnect structure comprising:

a trench or a via disposed within a dielectric material (222,246,252,310), wherein the trench or via is filled with a metal layer (230,308) disposed along the sidewalls of the trench or the via, and a conducting layer containing copper;

a CoWP film (234,318) on the copper layer, wherein the CoWP film contains from 11 atom percent to 25 atom percent phosphorus and has a thickness from 5 nm to 200 nm [Col. 10, lines 45-59].

The term “electrodeposited” is method recitation in a device claimed. Note that only the final product is relevant, not the method of making. A product by process claim is directed to the product per se, no matter how actually made. See also MPEP 2113. Moreover, an old or obvious product produced by a new method is not a patentable product, whether claimed in “product by process” claims or not.

With regard to claim 37, Lopatin et al. discloses the structure further comprising a metal cap layer (320) on the CoWP film.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopatin et al. (PN 6,528,409).

Lopatin et al. discloses x is about 84 (100 – 12 at % of W – 4 at % of P) and y between about 2-4 atoms percent. Lopatin et al. does not disclose the at % of tungsten is $0.03 < y < 0.07$. Although Lopatin et al. does not teach the at % of the tungsten, as that claimed by Applicants, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the tungsten having a desired at %, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 36, 40-41 and 44-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's claims 40-41 and 44-45 are allowable over the references of record because none of these references disclose or can be combined to yield the claimed composite material or the interconnect structure comprising the CoWP film contains from 13.2 atom percent phosphorus to 25 atom percent phosphorus or from 16.5 atom percent phosphorus to 25 atom percent phosphorus.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 12/08/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is argued, at pages 10 and 11 of the Remarks, that one of ordinary skill could not possibly achieve the CoWP films ... (all with a P at% greater than 12%) by electroless deposition. This argument is not convincing because In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., P at% greater than 12%, to 25 at%) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

It is argued, at page 11 of the Remarks, that the term "electrodeposited" is different from the term "electroless". This argument is not convincing because the term "electrodeposited" or "electrodeposition" encompasses both "electroplating or electroless deposition. Note Choi et al. (PN 6,168,991) is cited to support that "electrodeposited" is also included "electroless deposition".

It is argued, at pages 10 and 11 of the Remarks, that Lopatin et al. does not disclose the CoWP film contains from 11 atom percent to 25 atom percent phosphorus. This argument is not convincing because Lopatin et al. discloses CoWP film contains from 7 atom percent to 12 atom

percent phosphorus (which in the range of 11 atom percent to 25 atom percent phosphorus).

Note that the at% still is within the range of the claimed invention.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung K. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1666. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 6:00-3:30, alternate Friday 7:00-3:30, Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie C. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-1732. The Central Fax Number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

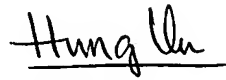
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Vu

June 8, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hung Vu", written over a horizontal line.

Hung Vu

Primary Examiner